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## **RUTGERS STUDENT VOTER TURNOUT RATES HIGHER IN 2016**

The Eagleton Institute of Politics' Center for Youth Political Participation (CYPP) announces that voter turnout rates for Rutgers students on the New Brunswick campus increased to 54% for 2016 - an uptick of 7.4% from 2012. Voter registration and turnout rates are available as a result of Rutgers University-New Brunswick's participation in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and reflect the percentage of students who were eligible to vote and who actually voted in the 2012 and 2016 elections.

The NSLVE report indicates that turnout rates on the Rutgers-New Brunswick campus were higher than comparable research institutions, public and private in 2016. Data available show that most students (83%) voted in-person on Election Day, that upperclassman voted at higher rates than first-year students and sophomores, and that more women voted than men. The fields of study with highest turnout rates included public administration and social service professions, library science, and education. NSLVE results are based on enrollment records submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (FERPA-blocked records excluded) and publicly available voting files collected by Catalyst.

CYPP administers Rutgers University's RU Voting program, a nonpartisan effort to register, educate, and mobilize Rutgers students for all elections. In 2016, RU Voting worked closely with the Office of Student Involvement and Residence Life to engage students in the election.

Regarding the increase in turnout rates, CYPP's Director Associate Research Professor Elizabeth C. Matto stated,

"We're pleased that campus-wide mobilization efforts and collaborations resulted in more Rutgers students turning out to vote in 2016. The work of equipping and motivating students to be informed and engaged citizens is an ongoing effort though and must continue yearly. Moreover, the responsibility of educating students to be civically engaged is a shared one and must be taken up across all disciplines and program areas."

For more information, visit the RU Voting website at [ruvoting.rutgers.edu](http://ruvoting.rutgers.edu).

### **About the Center for Youth Political Participation**

Eagleton's [Center for Youth Political Participation](http://www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/center-for-youth-political-participation) advances the political learning of young people and equips them to be active citizens and leaders. For young people to assume their place in the political process, the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of political participation must be taught. Through education, research, and public service, the Center for Youth Political Participation plays a lead role locally and nationally in fostering and promoting the active citizenship and leadership of future generations.

**About NSLVE (National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement)**

[NSLVE](#) is a signature initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education (IDHE) at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life. The mission of IDHE is to shift college and university priorities and culture to advance political learning, agency, and equity. They achieve this mission through research, resource development, technical assistance, and advocacy.

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